

REMARKS

The Examiner is thanked for the thorough examination of the application.

Status Of The Claims

Claims 1-7, 11-12 and 15-22 are pending in the application and claims 1 and 15 are independent. By the present submission, claims 1 has been amended to incorporate technical features of claims 8 and 9. Accordingly, claims 8 and 9 have been canceled. Also, claims 10, 13 and 14 were previously cancelled. Further, claims 15-22 have been withdrawn. No new matter is involved.

Reconsideration of the application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

Entry of Amendment

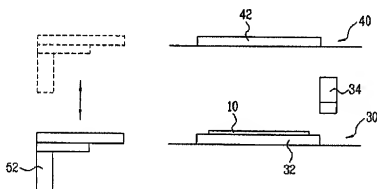
Applicants respectfully request that this Amendment be entered at this stage of the proceeding because, as noted above, it clearly places the Application in condition for allowance relative to the applied art.

Rejection under 35 USC 103(a)

Claims 1-9 and 11-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Satoi (US Patent No. 6,331,384; hereinafter "Satoi") and Fairbairn et al. (US Patent No. 6,176,667; hereinafter "Fairbairn"). Applicants traverse this rejection and respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal thereof.

The present invention of claim 1 includes a combination of elements and is directed to a

device for forming an alignment layer of a display apparatus, which comprises as technical features, a printing part to print an alignment layer on a substrate and a drying part positioned directly and vertically above the printing part and including a hot plate preheated at a predetermined temperature by emitting heat. These features are supported at least by the non-limiting example shown in Figure 5 of the present application, the hot plate 42 performing a drying process is positioned directly and vertically above the printing part 30 performing a printing process of the alignment layer on the substrate 10. That is to say, since the drying part is positioned directly and vertically above the printing part, one of the advantages of the present invention lies in that one of two parts performs a different process from the other of two parts.



Therefore, the present invention has an advantage of minimizing process time.

However, any of the cited references including Satoi and Fairbairn does not teach or suggest the above-mentioned technical features of the present application. Particularly, Satoi's drying part and printing part are arranged in succession. See abstract of Satoi. Although Satoi discloses the system may be constructed of individual apparatus and the glass substrates may be conveyed by individual cassettes as indicated in column 18, lines 38-45 of Satoi and on page 6 of

the outstanding Office Action, Satoi remains silent about the positional relationship of individual apparatus. Thus, Satoi does not teach the claimed technical features. Also, Fairbairn merely discloses stacking process modules which are performing the same process. Therefore, neither Satoi nor Fairbairn discloses or suggests the distinguishable features of the present application.

Also, the present invention has an effect of lowering the probability of adsorption of particles to the substrate, because the drying part is positioned directly and vertically above the printing part.

Moreover, as explained in paragraph [0045] of the present specification, the present invention also reveals an effect of occupying a small space and having great drying efficiency. Especially, this advantage can be achieved by drying an alignment layer printed on the substrate uniformly by minimizing a time-loss between the printing process and the drying process. The minimization of the time-loss between the printing process and the drying process is needed for preventing defects such as mura resulting from non-uniformly drying an alignment layer printed on the substrate.

As the MPEP directs, all the claim limitations must be taught or suggested by the prior art to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness. See MPEP § 2143.03. In view of the fact that the cited references fail to teach or fairly suggest the claimed features, a *prima facie* case of obviousness cannot be said to exist.

In light of the above remarks, since amended independent claim 1 of the present application is believed to overcome the 35 USC § 103(a) rejection, claims depending therefrom are also believed to address the same prior art rejection. Therefore, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw this rejection.

Conclusion

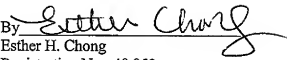
All of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding rejection and that they be withdrawn. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and as such, the present application is in condition for allowance.

If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned (703) 205-8000, in the Washington, D.C. area.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

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Respectfully submitted,

By 
Esther H. Chong
Registration No.: 40,953
BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP
8110 Gatehouse Road
Suite 100 East
P.O. Box 747
Falls Church, Virginia 22040-0747
(703) 205-8000
Attorney for Applicant